

Bicycle Map

The Bicycle Map for Polk County is presented in Figure 2 – Sheet 4. It includes several improvements needed to provide adequate, safe, and desirable facilities for use by bicyclists. While there are no safety standards for bike lanes, facilities and improvements for the benefit of bicyclists come in many forms, each of them best suited to certain situations.

It should be noted that the recommended improvements for on-road bicycle facilities can include a wide array of potential solutions. These improvements could range from minor projects, such as installing “Share the Road” signs or adding some extra pavement in blind curves, to major improvements, such as constructing bicycle lanes or wide shoulders.

NC Bicycle Route #8 (Southern Highlands) is the only officially state designated on-road bicycle route in Polk County. It begins at the county line west of Saluda and follows US 176 east to New Market Rd (SR 1502) in Tryon. There it continues east along New Market Rd (SR 1502), Hunting Country Rd (SR 1501), Red Fox Rd (SR 1519), Landrum Rd (SR 1520) and exits Polk County following Sandy Plains Rd (SR 1005).

These recommendations were developed based on comments received from the public. Several roadways that were noted by local officials and citizens as popular bicycling routes are shown to be in need of on-road improvements. The NCDOT envisions that all citizens of North Carolina and visitors to the state should be able to walk and bicycle safely and conveniently to their chosen destinations with reasonable access to roadways. Information on events, funding, maps, policies, projects, and processes dealing with these modes of transportation is available by contacting the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Contact information is listed in Appendix E.

North Polk Loop

The proposed bicycle route called North Polk Loop follows several state roads and is a preferred bicycle route by local cyclists. Following are roads that form the loop and recommendations for improvement:

- Add wide paved shoulders on Silver Creek Rd (SR 1138) from NC 108 to Lake Adger Rd (SR 1138)
- Add wide paved shoulders on Lake Adger Rd (SR 1138) from Silver Creek Rd (SR 1138) to Coopers Gap Rd (SR 1161)
- Add wide paved shoulders on Coopers Gap Rd (SR 1161) from Lake Adger Rd (SR 1138) to NC 9
- Add wide paved shoulders on Rock Spring Rd (SR 1311) from NC 9 to NC 108
- Add wide paved shoulders on Whiteside Rd (SR 1324) from NC 108 to NC 9